



Capital Program Continues Record Output

With funding provided by the 120th Legislature, MaineDOT continues to produce at record levels. During the first quarter of the federal fiscal year, the capital program matched the record production of 2002 by delivering 55 projects, with a value of more than \$60 million, to "start-of-construction." An often-used Federal Highway Administration measure, that estimates the number of jobs created by highway spending, suggests that meeting the Bureau of Project Development goal of generating \$200 million in contract payments by June 30th will mean 8,400 jobs for Maine. The Bureau plans to deliver 390 projects valued at \$300 million by the end of the federal fiscal year.



MaineDOT Bureau of Project Development

Legislature's Transportation Committee Formed

The 121st Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Transportation convened in January with both returning and new members on its roster. Sen. Pamela Hatch of Skowhegan and Rep. Ronald Usher of Westbrook will serve as the Committee's co-chairs. Returning Committee members include Sen. Christine Savage of Union, Rep. Ronald Collins of Wells, Rep. Boyd Marley of Portland, Rep. Deborah McNeil of Rockland, Rep. Terrance McKenney of Cumberland, and Rep. Ross Paradis of Frenchville. Members new to the Committee are Sen. Dennis Damon of Trenton, Rep. William Browne of Vassalboro, Rep. Lisa Marraché of Waterville, Rep. Arlan Jodrey of Bethel, and Rep. Sonya Sampson of Auburn. The Committee has already

considered several important matters, including a supplemental budget for FY 2003, the status of the Waldo-Hancock Bridge, and pedestrian safety.



MaineDOT Division 1

FY '03 Federal Funding Solid, '04 Uncertain

Congress recently passed a 2003 Transportation appropriation bill, with funding for the highway program equal to the healthy level of 2002. Both Houses of Congress rallied to increase highway funding above the USDOT budget proposal of a year ago, which would have meant a 25% cut for Maine. The 2003 bill also adds welcome funding secured by Maine's Congressional Delegation for several highway and transit projects in the MaineDOT program, including \$4 million for work on the Waldo-Hancock Bridge, \$1 million to help replace the Maine State Ferry Service vessel *The Curtis*, \$1.0 for buses and bus facilities, \$1.5 million for an East-West Highway, \$4.5 million for Aroostook North-South Highways, and \$1 million for deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (technology innovations). Meanwhile, the USDOT released its FY 2004 budget proposal on February 5th, proposing less federal highway funding for states, and signaling an austere stance on renewal of the six-year surface transportation act, "TEA-21," which will be taken up this year. The budget proposes a reduction in the Federal-Aid Highway Program, on which Maine and other states depend for capital funding for the Interstate System, the National Highway System, and other federal-aid-eligible programs.

Transportation Leaders Move On

MaineDOT Ex-Deputy Heads Baldacci Staff



Soon after the resignation of John Melrose as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation, then-Acting Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner, Jane L. Lincoln was tapped to serve as Governor John E. Baldacci's Chief of Staff. Lincoln's brief stint as Acting

Commissioner capped an extraordinary career with the Department, where she started as an Engineering Aide II in 1977. In addition to her service at MaineDOT, which included 14 years as Deputy, Lincoln also acted as special assistant to Governor Joseph Brennan and liaison to federal agencies. She is the former chairwoman of the Maine Port Authority, a former member of the Maine Turnpike Authority, and a former board member of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. A native of Kittery Point, Lincoln is a graduate of the University of Maine, and has been a resident of the Augusta-Hallowell area since 1977. Bureau of Planning Director Carl Croce assumed duties as Acting Commissioner pending the appointment of a new MaineDOT Commissioner by Governor Baldacci.

BPD's Foster Retires After 41 Years



Warren M. Foster, Director of the MaineDOT Bureau of Project Development (BPD), retired in late December after a distinguished career of more than 40 years with the Department. Foster started in 1961 as an Engineering Aide, and rose through the ranks to be BPD

Director. He also served as Director of Technical Services, Director of the Bureau of Planning, and Deputy Chief Engineer. In December, he was presented with the David H. Stevens Award at the 52nd Maine Transportation Conference. In recent years, Foster led a very successful reorganization in the Bureau of Project Development, which manages MaineDOT's capital improvement program. Foster has long been a favorite among MaineDOT staff, a good

listener, always with a smile and a positive outlook. Foster has stayed on in an "Acting" capacity until a permanent replacement is named.

Baker Retires as Division III DE



Guy L. Baker recently retired from the Division Engineer's post in MaineDOT's Division III, headquartered in Bangor. Baker joined the Department full-time in 1966 as an Engineering Aide, served as Division III's Traffic Engineer for nearly ten years, and was appointed

Division III DE in 1992. He also stood in as Acting Division Engineer in the Presque Isle Division I office for much of 1997. The plain-spoken Baker enjoyed the affection of his staff for his friendly and caring management style. Baker hinted that his future plans may involve relocation to the Southwest, where he can enjoy his family, and more easily ply his passion for gaming. Baker was succeeded in Division III by Jerry Waldo, who was Division Engineer in Division I. Galen Costigan, the Assistant DE in Division III, has assumed Waldo's position in Division I.

Lariviere Completes Noteworthy FHWA Career



In January, Paul L. Lariviere retired from his position as Administrator of the FHWA Maine Division, where he served in that capacity since February of 1993. Prior to his assignment to Maine, Lariviere was FHWA Assistant Division Administrator in North Carolina.

He was highly regarded among his MaineDOT colleagues as a first-class manager of the Federal-Aid Program. On countless occasions, Lariviere helped MaineDOT steer a path through FHWA's complex regulatory system, always focused on improving the transportation system in Maine. Lariviere was with the FHWA since 1966 when he graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Civil Engineering. He also holds a Masters in Transportation Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He will be succeeded by Jonathan D. McDade, presently the Director of Planning and Program Development in the FHWA's New York Division in Albany.



MaineDOT Division I

Monster Snowstorms Blast County

A record-breaking storm dropped 24 inches of snow on parts of Aroostook County on February 2nd, followed by a second heavy storm just two days later. Whiteout conditions and drifting snow posed challenges for plow crews from MaineDOT Division I and County municipalities throughout the week. In support of County towns, Governor Baldacci requested that the big storm be declared a federal emergency, and the Maine Emergency Management Agency asked the Department to document costs associated with the event in order to facilitate federal reimbursement. Northern Maine has endured an extremely harsh winter this year, straining municipal snow-removal budgets and hampering travel during several snow events.

MaineDOT Gives Hybrid a Spin

MaineDOT recently acquired a hybrid passenger car for its vehicle fleet. The Honda Civic Hybrid is powered by a gasoline engine in conjunction with a battery-driven electric motor. The car's battery recharges while it runs under gasoline power, and kicks in when the vehicle is idling or cruising, optimizing fuel use. The car, which can get up to 51 miles per gallon, will be used for official Department travel. Other state agencies will drive hybrid vehicles as well, under an executive order to begin using the technology. The Motor Transport Division, which maintains the MaineDOT fleet, will assess the cost benefits of the car to guide future replacement decisions.

The Maine Traveler is available on the MaineDOT website at:
http://www.state.me.us/mdot/maine_traveler/homepage.htm

To send comments or to obtain extra paper copies,
 call 624-3253, or send an e-mail to: Maine.DOT@state.me.us

MaineDOT Employees of the Month

November 2002

Don Young

Technician

Pavement Management Section



Don Young began at MaineDOT in 1993 as an Engineering Aide II, was promoted to Engineering Technician I, and he is now a Technician in the Pavement Management Section of the Planning Bureau. Young is the primary customer-service person for the unit, providing information on pavement condition, roadway functional classifications, project status, and other issues. He is also an expert in using the airport pavement management software. For a period in 2001, Young single-handedly covered operations in the Pavement Management Section while the Pavement Management Engineer and Assistant positions were both vacant. His nomination says, "Don is a valuable employee whose willingness and ability to learn new things is a great asset to the Bureau of Planning and the Department."

December 2002

Penny Plourde

***Business Services Manager
Bureau of Human Resources***



Penny Plourde started at MaineDOT as an Equal Opportunity Specialist in 1983. She became Affirmative Action

Officer and Equal Opportunity Coordinator, and is now a Business Services Manager in the Bureau of Human Resources. While at MaineDOT, she has earned several national awards, including the Civil Rights Tenacity Award in 1992 and the FHWA Administrator's 1997 Outstanding Minority Business Enterprise Award. In 2001, her efforts and organizational skill brought nearly 400 tradeswomen, FHWA officials, tradeswomen training groups and advocates, and state DOT officials together for the National Tradeswomen's Conference. Plourde was also recently recognized by FHWA's Maine Division office, which presented her with their annual Transportation Excellence Award for 2002.

MaineDOT Employees of the Month

January 2003

Tricia Thompson

*Photo Lab Technician
Mapping & Media Services*



Tricia Thompson first came to work for MaineDOT as a Clerk I in 1994. She progressed to become a Clerk II, a Photo Lab Assistant, and is now a Photo

Lab Technician in the Mapping & Media Services Section: “Trish doesn’t say no,” says her nomination. “She always sees criticism as constructive and follows through with other people’s ideas and suggestions... Trish fills in the actual talent to support the grand ideas and visions behind logos, signs, posters and pictures all over the building and the state. She truly treats MaineDOT employees as customers, spending time with people who request her services to get to know them and what their preferences are. With a wink, a smile, and a droll ‘alrighty then,’ Trish once again drops everything to do whatever is asked of her.”

February 2003

Peggy Duval

*Project Manager
Multi-modal Program*



Peggy Duval began work at MaineDOT as an Engineering Aide II in 1989. Since then she has been a Tech I, II, III, and IV, and Senior

Technician, and she is now a Project Manager in the Multimodal Program. Her nomination reads, “When she joined the Multimodal Program, Peggy hit the ground running, and was a key player in expediting delivery of several significant marine projects. Since then she has taken the reigns on many other project types including rail construction, park-and-ride lots, and bike/ped facilities. Peggy’s outstanding work performance and job knowledge landed her a much-deserved promotion to Project Manager, and she is now successfully managing 20 to 25 projects. The Multimodal Program feels very fortunate to have Peggy on our team.”

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The Maine Department of Transportation

January/February 2003



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